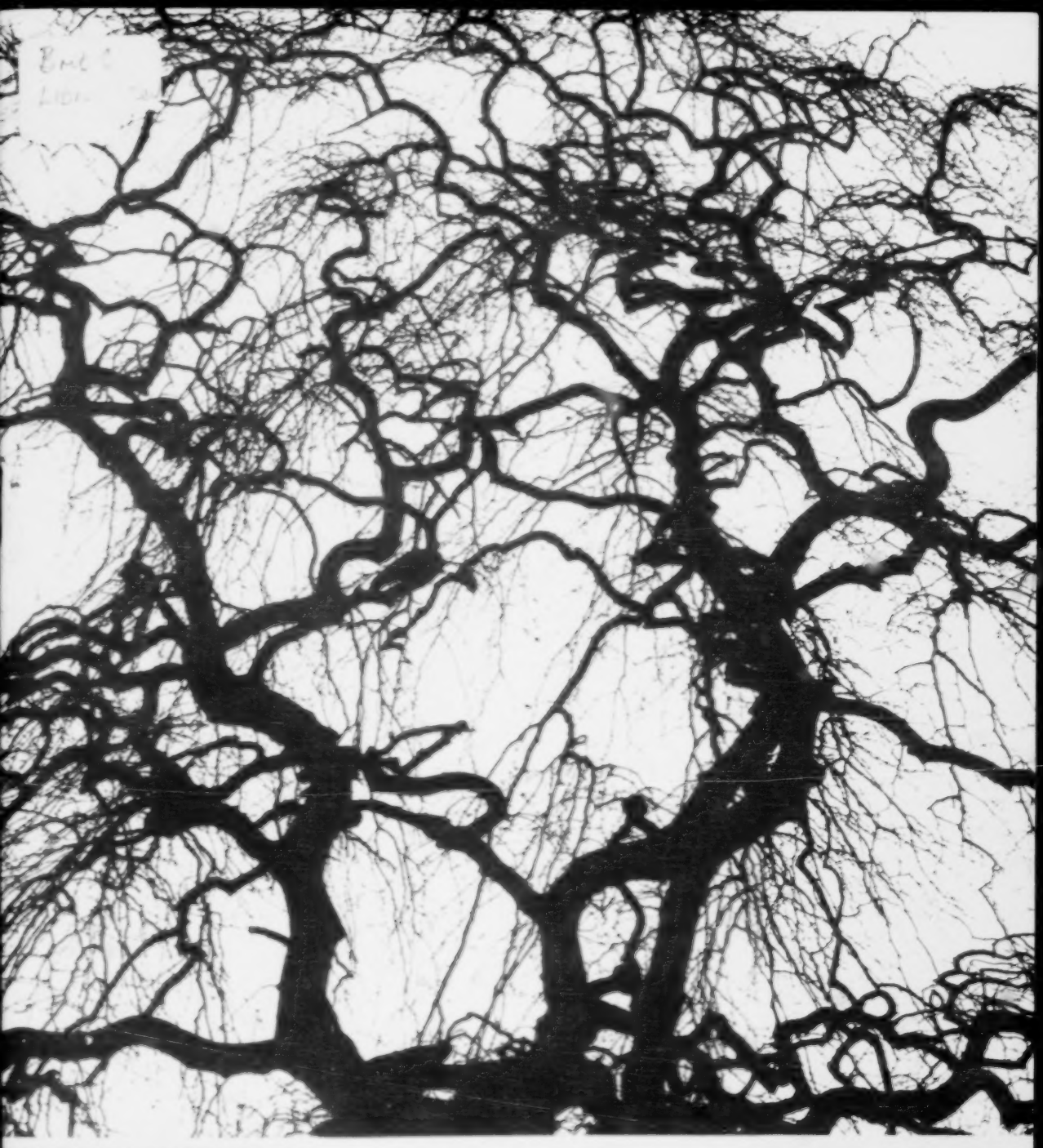


ANNUAL REPORT 1972

LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY
WITHDRAWN

library development commission

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

REPORT

for the

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

1972

R. D. FERGUSON, Vancouver, *Chairman*
H. M. BOYCE, Vancouver
MRS. J. CHADWICK, North Vancouver
R. J. CULOS, Burnaby
PETER GROSSMAN, West Vancouver

Printed by K. M. MacDonald, Printer to the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty
in right of the Province of British Columbia.
1973

104-04670/

VICTORIA, B.C., January 1973.

To Colonel the Honourable JOHN R. NICHOLSON, P.C., O.B.E., Q.C., LL.D.,
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

The Annual Report of the Library Development Commission for the year ended March 31, 1972, is herewith respectfully submitted.

ERNEST HALL
Provincial Secretary

VICTORIA, B.C., January 1973.

The Honourable Ernest Hall,
Provincial Secretary, Victoria, B.C.

SIR: In accordance with the provisions of the *Public Libraries Act*, I have the honour to submit the Report of the Library Development Commission for the year ended March 31, 1972.

R. L. DAVISON
Director, Library Development Commission

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

HEADQUARTERS
1250 Quadra Street, Victoria
Director: R. L. Davison

CONSULTANT SERVICE
Miss M. E. Leask,
1250 Quadra Street, Victoria
Mrs. A. A. Simpson,
103, 1037 West Broadway, Vancouver 9

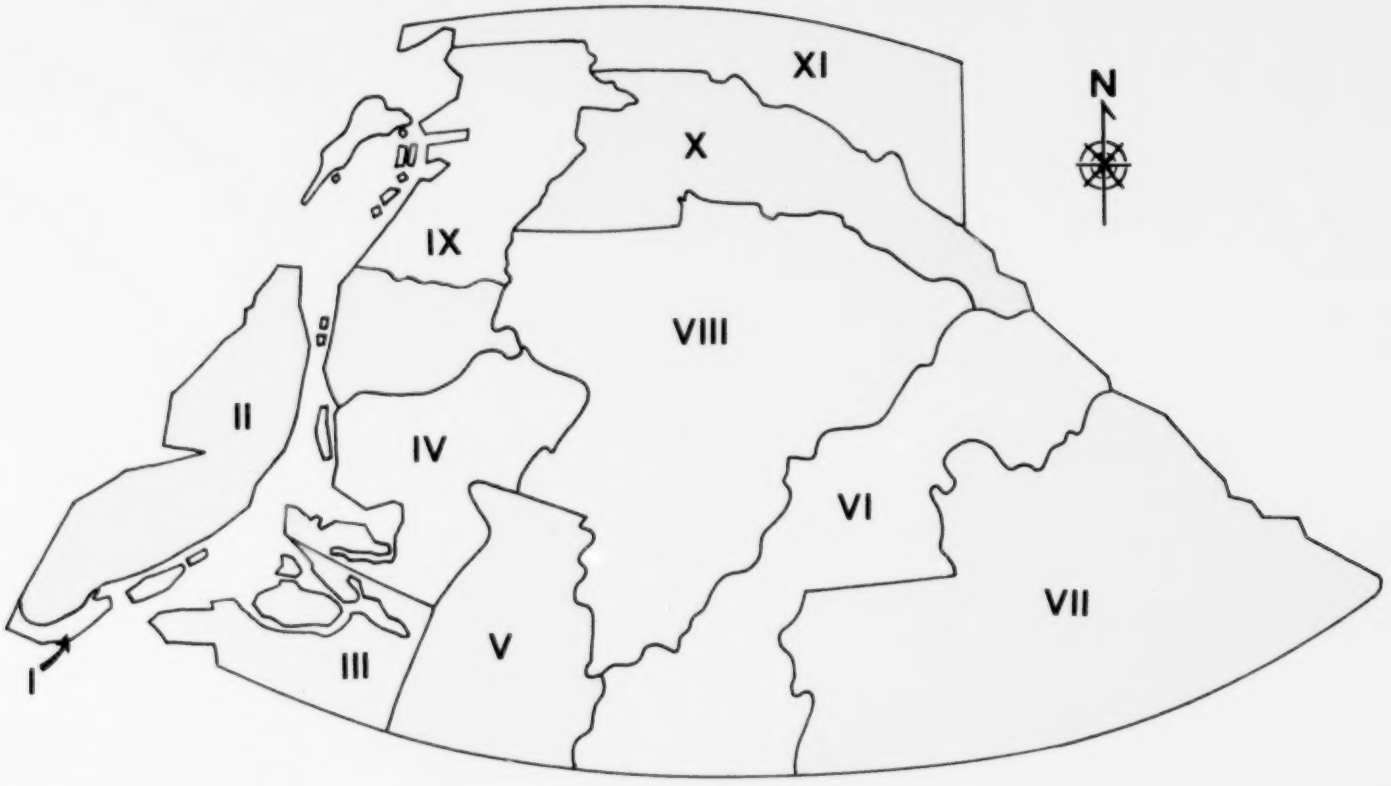
LIBRARY SERVICES

Open Shelf and Travelling Libraries
1250 Quadra Street, Victoria
Librarian: Mrs. M. J. Mitchell

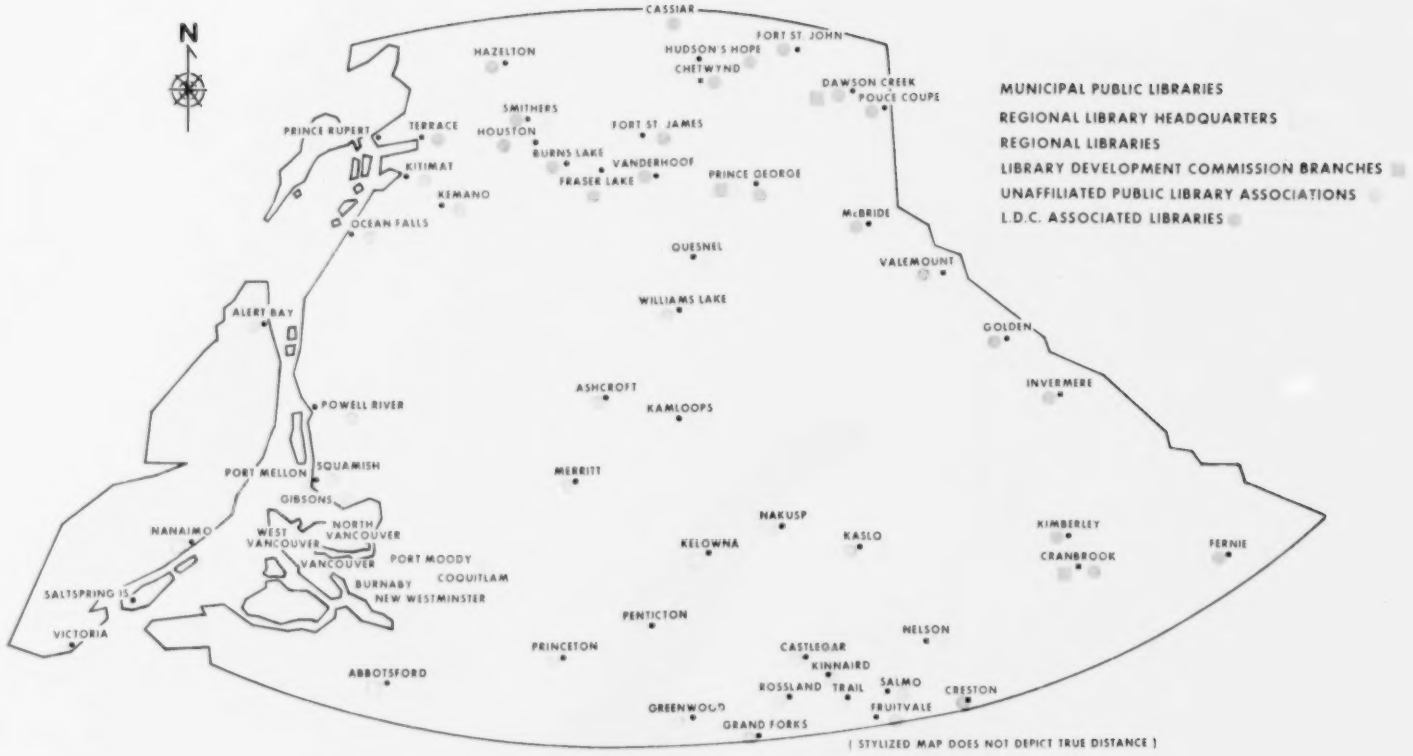
North Central Branch
3907—15th Avenue, Prince George
Branch Librarian: Miss P. E. Bowlby

Peace River Branch
1017—105th Avenue, Dawson Creek
Branch Librarian: W. M. Peters

East Kootenay Branch
17 South 11th Avenue, Cranbrook
Branch Librarian: Mrs. Helen Gordon



A PLAN FOR PROVINCE WIDE ORGANIZATION BASED ON REGIONAL DISTRICTS



PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA **1972**

Report of the Library Development Commission for the Year Ended March 31, 1972

The Report for the year 1970/71 ended on a note of preparation. For the first time in the Commission's history there was to be a full-scale conference that would focus attention on the inter-relation of all types of libraries, a special committee was working on a blueprint for library reorganization, there would be a survey of library services in the Lower Mainland, an examination of the resources of the Vancouver Public Library, a study of the relationship between school libraries and public libraries in British Columbia, a revision of the approved standards for public libraries, and a Bill to amend the *Public Libraries Act*.

On May 3, 1971, delegates from all corners of the Province gathered in Victoria for the one-day British Columbia Centennial Citizens' Conference on Libraries. Originally a project of the British Columbia Library Association, the conference became officially a Centennial event. It was well attended, and its success has provided the incentive to plan five regional conferences for the summer of 1972.

By the time of the Citizens' Conference, the Commission's Committee on Library Development had already been working for 15 months on a plan to organize public library service in the Province into larger units of service, or systems. Drafting and redrafting its findings and recommendations, the Committee continued to meet through 1971, and in January 1972 presented its report to the Commission. Two months later, with the approval of the Minister, the Commission produced the report as *A Proposal for Province-wide Organization of Library Service in British Columbia*. This document will be the focal point for discussion at the forthcoming regional conferences in Kamloops, Nelson, Burnaby, Prince George, and Prince Rupert.

The Commission hopes the Committee's views and recommendations will be read carefully and discussed all over the Province by those who are interested enough to criticize, comment, and advise. The systems concept will be the core of the next Programme for Library Development; thus the importance of having the *Proposal* analysed and modified so as to form the best possible foundation for the new programme.

Although the *Proposal* describes extensively the Committee's idea of how systems should be planned, established, and operated Province-wide, two areas were excepted — Vancouver and Victoria and their immediate surroundings. Besides recommending "that there be one library system to serve the Greater Vancouver Regional District," the Committee referred the Commission to its previous recommendation, which was to single out this regional district for special study and planning. Having acted upon this recommendation, the Commission now has a second report, *A Partnership for Development; Public Libraries in Greater Vancouver,* based on a study by the firm of Albert Bowron, Information, Media and Library Planners of Toronto. The *Bowron Report*, like the *Proposal,* will be the object of study, comment, criticism, and advice, particularly at the regional conference in Burnaby.

In 1971 the Director of the Greater Victoria Public Library recommended to his board that a study be made of library service in Greater Victoria, financed by the Library Development Commission. The board approved and the Commission

agreed, with two qualifications—that the area under study be extended to include the whole of the Capital Regional District and that the survey be done with co-operation from the Vancouver Island Regional Library, which now serves part of the area concerned.

This was a year for studies. The Vancouver Public Library, with Provincial aid through the Commission, initiated a survey of the library resources of its whole system. The job is being done by a top-level consultant, Lee Ash, who recently did a similar analysis for the Toronto Public Library system. The Ash study is expected to result in a report in depth of the strengths, weaknesses, and potential of the total library resources of the Vancouver system. It will be invaluable to organization and operation of the proposed library system for the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

Interest in interlibrary co-operation, as exemplified in the Commission's *Vainstein Report* of 1966 and earlier studies, and emphasized in the *Proposal,* was drawing attention to the relation between school library service and public library service in the community. In the fall of 1971 the Deputy Provincial Secretary and the Deputy Minister of Education, on behalf of their respective Ministers, appointed a committee of six "to study school library service and public library service in British Columbia communities with a view to further development of co-operative practices and potential integration of services." This joint committee, chaired by the Director of the Library Development Commission, began its meetings in January 1972 and expects to have its findings and recommendations by December.

While this extra activity has been going on in the field of study, with its implication of far-reaching effects, business as usual has been conducted at the old stand. Qualified community librarians have been turned out by the Commission's training programme and returned to their posts with better understanding of the job and more valuable service to offer to their boards.

The Commission's *Quantitative Standards for Public Libraries,* published in 1968 for implementation in April 1971, is being revised for reissue in 1973. The new standards will be aimed at achieving a higher level of service by 1976 than simply "the lowest grade of acceptable library service." The Commission hopes that its approved standards will eventually be seen as the starting point for good service rather than as the ultimate goal where all striving may cease.

Emphasis on the concept of larger units of service called for some new legislation. An Act was passed at the 1972 Session, amending the *Public Libraries Act* so as to define federated and integrated library systems and to empower a regional district to provide and maintain an integrated public library system. The same Act provided for necessary changes in financial arrangements for service by existing regional libraries to areas administered by the Government of Canada. There was also a significant section on the Commission itself, allowing for an increase in its composition from five to seven members.

In November 1971 the busy office of the Commission in New Westminster moved to Vancouver and became even busier. The new office, at 1037 West Broadway, will in future accommodate the Commission's meetings and act as the headquarters, *pro tem,* for the Lower Mainland Public Libraries Co-ordinating Committee.

There were workshops in Vancouver and in the East Kootenay, a start has been made on plans to ensure the availability of full public library service to all Indians in the Province, library service to the handicapped is being studied, and in October 1971 the Commission's two consultants went to Washington and Oregon

to learn about the operation and function of the State Libraries and to study the set-up and operation of six medium-to-large library systems.

This was a busy year.

REPORTS FROM THE COMMISSION'S BRANCHES

North Central (Prince George)

This has been a peak year in every respect for the majority of our libraries. Despite the increase in prices, more books were purchased, resulting in substantial jumps in circulation. Part of this increase was due to new buildings in Burns Lake, Fort St. James, Fraser Lake, and Vanderhoof. Another contributing factor was the successful completion of the Commission's correspondence course by four librarians. Community interest and involvement were increasingly noticeable in a tangible way—organizations contributed more and larger money grants to libraries, and volunteer help was easier to come by. Probably the most significant example of involvement was displayed by Indian bands in several areas, who turned over their Federal and Provincial grants to library associations. Since they were already receiving the same service as the rest of the community, this was not done to buy service for themselves, but rather to improve it for everyone.

The pace at the Branch has, of necessity, been stepped up, but the number of staff remains static. The acquisition of a 3M copier has greatly alleviated our paper duplicating problems—would that it were adapted for humans.

Our adult nonfiction-subject catalogue is finally nearing completion. Such satisfactory use has been made of the three completed volumes that we now intend to use book catalogues exclusively in the smaller libraries, instead of setting up card catalogues. The use of these, and of our booklists, has increased interlibrary loans, and has the added advantage of emphasizing the "one book collection" concept.

Construction of our headquarters building began in September of last year, with a firm completion date of February 1972. With the deadline long past, there remains at least two months' work, and labour strikes are imminent.

As with every advent of April 1, we hope for money and staff in quantities sufficient to raise our own level of service to that demanded of our public library associations.

Peace River (Dawson Creek)

Changes in Branch policy and professional staff have marked a key year. A tendency on the part of the larger libraries to get ahead of the Branch is indicative of the way the Peace River Associated Libraries are growing. While the formation of a regional library district became unlikely for some time, communication between the PRAL and the Branch has increased, and the departure of Howard Overend made everyone realize how closely linked the LDC and PRAL are.

New policies were inaugurated concerning book exchanges and paperbacks. The new paperback policy established in January was well received. That policy offers each library one and one-half times the number of paperbacks as the number of hardbacks purchased at $5.

Publicity declined with Sylvia Conner's departure. Pressed for time, Howard Overend had to give up the "World of Books" television show and "Book Talk" radio programme. However, the newspaper columns "Talking of Books and Libraries" and "Book Talk" continued except for a few weeks when a strike forced the *Peace River Block News* to cease publication. The Branch Librarian also

visited Grande Prairie to be on an open-line radio programme in connection with Young Canada's Book Week. A film made by Bill Peters on the September Alaska Highway trip promised future use at annual meetings as a lure for the public. Finally, a booklist called *B.C. North* proved popular when sent to all libraries and community libraries.

The Branch Librarian did more consultative work than in past years, meeting the Library Boards at Fort St. John, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, and Hudson's Hope to advise on standards, publicity, and Government regulations. An unusual summer trip up the Alaska Highway saw the Branch Librarian re-establishing communications with the Cassiar Library and offering administrative aid to Fort Nelson Library. He got as far as Telegraph Creek on the Stikine and aroused some interest in books there which resulted in a community library. In September the Alaska Highway trip went as usual with cartons of books delivered to seven community libraries and 13 others choosing books from the Bookmobile. An interesting development was increased mail requests from isolated areas such as Telegraph Creek and Fort Ware.

Branch staff attended in unprecedented force at the 1971 annual meetings. In most cases the meetings were short and the farewell to Howard Overend long. Before the price of books was raised from $3.50 to $5, both Dawson Creek and Fort St. John libraries purchased several hundred at the old price. Two libraries now have a nonresident fee. Big news for Dawson Creek Library was a referendum approval of a new $285,000 building to be constructed under the winter works programme.

With a decision at the May annual meeting that there should be an increased number of meetings between the area trustees' representative and library boards, the trend to more frequent contacts on all levels continued.

While the number of community libraries remained substantially the same as last year (57), some of them are increasingly more active. Those within phoning distance do call up with requests and for immediate mail service. The greatest disappointment was the defeat of the proposed library at Taylor. The Branch Librarian was asked to draw up plans to turn a school-building basement into a library in April. However, when it became clear that there would be a charge for the books ($500 for an annual supply of 3,000 books was proposed), the Taylor Council reluctantly withdrew. Biggest success story was the Atlin library which began again in July. Mrs. Johnson's "Treadle Mill" house is the ideal location for a library, with a view over Atlin Lake. And in February the increasing requests for books were topped with an urgent request for books about babies to cope with the current baby boom in Atlin.

The trend during the year seemed to be toward an increasing interest by the public in their libraries, especially the two largest. New buildings will certainly keep this interest high. The whole PRAL-LDC relationship is likely to be re-examined by the new librarian as well. Perhaps one real mark of the future was the arrival of 1,500 paperbacks all together in March—simplified processing, portability, and the book in cool form.

East Kootenay (Cranbrook)

The rapidly changing economy of the East Kootenays, with its attendant escalating population patterns, has increased the load on our services from the various public and community libraries serving the area. How to plan for instant villages and municipalities supporting new industry's bedroom communities, when additional funds for libraries are not available, continues to be our problem.

Two separate events, and the existing library standards, combined to bring additional municipal funds to our libraries. In October a library seminar, "The Better Library Trustee, Building a Better Library," attracted local municipal personnel as well as library trustees. These municipal officials heard library trustees from other areas describe local under-financed libraries as being a type of "down the drain wtih the taxpayer's money schemes." They also heard their trustees being urged to use "political clout" at the local tax level, to obtain sufficient money to operate at the standards level.

Planning for the Nelson Citizens' Conference also made regional officials as well as municipal officials aware of the fact that the library service was only here as long as some extra financing was forthcoming. Consequently, the municipalities doubled their contributions to libraries in 1971, and the Regional District of East Kootenay contributed on a *per capita* basis to the four public libraries now operating within their boundaries. Although the latter *per capita* contributions are low, they supply needed operating funds to the hard-pressed local libraries.

Statistics reveal that the enforcing of the standards has raised the quality of library services to the public. Interlibrary loans between our affiliated libraries have decreased by one-third, but borrowing outside our service for materials at the postgraduate level has risen by 20 per cent this year. All of our affiliated libraries now have card catalogues, all are better stocked, and some of the librarians have had training in library work. The libraries all report a sharp upswing in membership and in two areas the circulation has doubled.

The Branch was the resource centre for the Selkirk High School at Kimberley, when their library was destroyed by a fire. Had we not been here, 800 senior high school pupils would have been without resources related to their curriculum.

Cranbrook Public Library opened a beautiful 8,000-square-foot modular building in May. Fully carpeted and air-conditioned, the building was financed entirely by local donations. It was not a Centennial project. Its low cost of $102,000 fully equipped has attracted a great deal of attention from other library boards.

Our Branch was moved in December to a roomier, pleasanter building with off-street parking. Because of this move, no workshop was held in 1971 for librarians and assistants. However, two of our librarians and two trustees were chosen to attend conventions and workshops in Vancouver. Each librarian from our area spent one day at headquarters after our move, doing reference work and ironing out various problems.

The Branch Librarian's services have been spread thinly as usual. In our programme of assistance, each library has been visited three times during the year, making book exchanges and holding workshops in book-mending, library techniques, etc. Some libraries have had as many as six visits, especially the ones where new librarians have taken over. These have had fairly extensive supervision, which has upgraded the library operations. The stock of several libraries has been weeded extensively and two complete inventories were done. The Librarian has also attended numerous meetings, and given three talks to mothers on the importance of reading to their pre-school children.

The year 1971 has brought improved library service to the East Kootenays, and the local library boards are more aware than ever that there is still a great deal of improvement to be accomplished. We look forward to the time when funding and staffing are ample to achieve the best library service for everyone in our area.

THE COMMISSION'S LIBRARY SERVICE, APRIL 1, 1971, TO MARCH 31, 1972

I. *Open Shelf*

	Head-quarters (Victoria)	North Central (Prince George)	Peace River (Dawson Creek)				East Kootenay (Cranbrook	Grand Total
			Head-quarters	Book-mobile	Fort Nelson	Total		
Circulation								
Adult	39,279	8,252	1,510	.....	13,032	14,542	670	62,743
Juvenile	32,536	2,115	1,485	.....	6,156	7,641	648	42,940
Totals	71,815	10,367	2,995	.....	19,188	22,183	1,318	105,683
Last year	66,939	10,394	4,725	2,471	13,392	20,588	2,206	100,127
Borrowers Registered								
Adult	8,118	641	29	.....	937	966	128	9,853
Juvenile	4,267	337	123	.....	755	878	102	5,584
Totals	12,385	978	152	.....	1,692	1,844	230	15,437
Last year	11,824	1,043	102	.....	1,323	1,425	189	14,481
Bookstock (Open Shelf and Travelling Libraries)								
Total volumes—								
Adult	86,983	56,963	45,133				27,335	216,414
Juvenile	48,454	30,195	18,092				23,101	119,842
Totals	135,437	87,158	63,225				50,436	336,256
Last year—								
Adult	83,968	53,067	36,390				24,270	197,695
Juvenile	47,819	28,907	17,157				21,342	115,225
Totals	131,787	81,974	53,547				45,612	312,920

THE COMMISSION'S LIBRARY SERVICE, APRIL 1, 1971, TO MARCH 31, 1972—*Continued*

II. *Travelling Libraries*

Delivered to—	Head-quarters (Victoria)	North Central (Prince George)	Peace River (Dawson Creek)	East Kootenay (Cranbrook)	Grand Total
Public Library Associations—					
Collections	46	46	22	365	479
Volumes	7,580	8,441	11,329	13,853	41,203
Communities—					
Collections	239	71	161	45	516
Volumes	25,560	22,136	20,695	5,273	73,664
Total—					
Collections	285	117	183	410	995
Volumes	33,140	30,577	32,024	19,126	114,867
Last year—					
Collections	271	119	154	462	1,006
Volumes	31,820	32,042	24,430	23,152	111,444

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION EXPENDITURE, APRIL 1, 1971, TO MARCH 31, 1972

	$
Salaries	246,099
Office expense, equipment, supplies	18,299
Travelling expense (staff and vehicles)	11,755
Printing and publications	2,707
Books, binding, and periodicals	89,921
Transportation	1,724
Extension services	3,490
Freight	7,032
Total	381,027

Grants to libraries and library associations, $600,000.

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1973

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